



September 9, 2008

## Larimer County raises more questions about Glade

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The Larimer County commissioners agreed to beef-up their formal comments on Glade Reservoir and the Northern Integrated Supply Project but declined to take a stand on the controversial water-storage proposal.

The commissioners' comment to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a draft Environmental Impact Statement for NISP will include concerns about the potential impact of the project on water quality and wildlife habitat along the Poudre River.

The county's comments also will question the impact NISP would have on agricultural lands as described in the draft EIS, which estimates 69,000 acres of farmland would be lost if the project is not built. The assumption is municipalities that are participating in NISP would buy agricultural water to meet their needs if Glade Reservoir is not built.

Feedback on the document from individuals as well as governmental entities and environmental groups are due to the Corps by Saturday. The county's formal comments include input from several county-appointed volunteer boards and commissions, including the Environmental Advisory Board and the Open Lands Advisory Board.

The commissioners chose to not take an "up or down" position on the project as other local governments have. Last week the Fort Collins City Council passed a resolution opposing NISP as it is described in the draft EIS.

Commissioner Kathay Rennels said the county should be cautious about taking a stance on a regional water project when it is involved in another. The county has a financial stake in the proposed Chimney Hollow Reservoir, which is also going through the EIS process, she said.

Chimney Hollow would be a 90,000-acre foot reservoir built west of Carter Lake if it is approved by the Bureau of Reclamation. The county would manage recreation on the reservoir and the surrounding property.

"I would hate to have us criticized for supporting something when we have taxpayer dollars in it and not supporting something that we don't have taxpayer dollars in," she said.

Rennels said she would rather expand the county's comments than take a position on the project and the draft EIS.

Commissioner Randy Eubanks, who participated in the commissioners' meeting via telephone from Washington, D.C., said he believes NISP "is not in the best interest of Larimer County" but understands the reason for not yet taking a formal stance on the project.

"It's extremely important that we retain a seat at the table and talk about these issues," Eubanks said.

For more, see Wednesday's Coloradoan and [www.coloradoan.com](http://www.coloradoan.com)

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